

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4105

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GR, CY, TU, US
SUBJECT: GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER ON NATO AND CYPRUS

1. IN OUR FIRST MEETING TODAY NEW FOREIGN MINISTER RALLIS TOLD ME THAT HE WILL ENCOURAGE THE GREEK CYPRIOTS TO FIND MEANS TO RESUME INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS WHEN PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU AND FOREIGN MINISTER ROLANDIS ARE IN ATHENS TOMORROW. HE DOES NOT ASSUME THAT HE CAN CONVINCE THE CYPRIOTS TO COME FORWARD FROM THE POSITION KYPRIANOU HAS TAKEN UP UNTIL NOW. I ASKED WHETHER CARAMANLIS AGREED WITH HIS APPROACH AND RALLIS SAID, "CERTAINLY".

2. FROM THIS I CONCLUDE THAT THE GOG NOW ACCEPTS THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE TURKS WILL GO BEYOND THE LETTER OF THEIR PROPOSALS AS WRITTEN. IT IS THE FIRST WE HAVE HEARD IT. I TOLD RALLIS THAT I WAS ENCOURAGED THAT THE GOG WOULD TAKE SUCH A STEP AND ALLOWED THAT IT COULD FACILITATE SYG WALDHEIM'S EFFORTS. RALLIS ADMITTED THAT KYPRIANOU HAD BEEN UNWISELY NEGATIVE AND THAT IT COULD PROVE PROFOUNDLY DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO MOVE FORWARD. RALLIS ADDED THAT THE TURKS HAD EQUALLY BLUNDERED WITH THE NARROWNESS OF THE PROPOSALS GIVEN TO WALDHEIM. RALLIS SAID TWICE HE WANTED THE WORD OF THE GOG APPROACH PROTECTED.

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3. IN THE ONLY OTHER SUBSTANTIVE PART OF THE CONVERSATION, RALLIS CALLED MY ATTENTION TO THE DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR THE NATO SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE TO WHICH ATHENS TOOK THE STRONGEST EXCEPTION. HE GAVE ME HIS HANDWRITTEN TEXT OF THE OFFENSIVE PARAGRAPH: "THE ALLIES HAD NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE INITIATIVE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO LIFT ALL RESTRICTIONS WHICH HINDERED THE SUPPLY TO TURKEY OF

DEFENSE EQUIPMENT AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A SPEEDY SOLUTION
COULD BE FOUND TO THIS PROBLEM."

4. RALLIS SAID THAT THIS WAS HIS TRANSLATION FROM THE GREEK AS
RECEIVED FROM THEIR MISSION TO NATO. UNFORTUNATELY, I HAD NOT
BEEN TRACKING THE DRAFTING EXERCISE AND WAS NOT AWARE OF THE
INTRODUCTION OF THIS LANGUAGE OR ITS EQUIVALENT. I NOW SEE IN
STATE 125982 THAT THE GREEK EMBASSY HAS MADE A REPRESENTATION
TO THE DEPARTMENT. ODDLY, RALLIS DID NOT AT ANY POINT ASK ME
TO HAVE THE USG INTERVENE. WE WILL THEREFORE STAY OUT OF IT.

5. FIRST IMPRESSIONS. THIS WAS MY INTRODUCTORY MEETING WITH RALLIS.
HE IS SELF-POSSESSED AND STRAIGHTFORWARD AND HAS BEEN AROUND THE
GOVERNMENTAL TRACK A LONG TIME IN DIFFERENT CAPACITIES.
WHETHER HE WILL SUCCEED IN ESTABLISHING A SELF-IMPRINT ON THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY DEPEND ON WHETHER HE
WOULD SUCCEED IN IMPOSING HIS WILL ON CARAMANLIS WHEN THEY
SUFFER POLICY DIFFERENCES. THE ODDS ARE PROBABLY AGAINST THIS
INASMUCH AS THE PRIME MINISTER IS NEVER CHALLENGED EXCEPT BY
HIS POLITICAL OPPOSITION ON FOREIGN POLICY. IN ANY CASE, I THINK
WE WILL BE ABLE TO WORK EFFECTIVELY WITH RALLIS.

MCCLOSKEY

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